

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, On rollcall No. 763, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 764, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 765, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 766, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 767, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 768, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 769, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 770, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 771, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 772, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 773, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 774, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 775, I would have voted "present." On rollcall No. 776, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 777, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 778, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON SCIENCE AND PHYSICS
PROGRAMS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduce a new opportunity for future physicists in Southeast region of Texas. In a collaborative effort, the University of Houston and University of Houston—Clear Lake (UHCL) are implementing a unique program for UHCL students pursuing a Masters of Science in Physics, who wish to continue in the University of Houston's Ph.D. Program.

The program is tailored towards motivated students looking to advance their education in the field of physics. This newly established relationship offers the attainment of a doctoral degree at both campuses, as opposed to the previous arrangement that required students to commute to the University of Houston campus. The faculty will consist of professors from both universities, and the doctoral degree will be presented by the University of Houston.

As a former science teacher, I have always valued education and research, and the potential benefits that arise from such hard work and dedication. This convenient initiative will not only enhance each student's performance, but will also mitigate the strains placed on students, teachers and their families by providing a more localized system in the Clear Lake area.

It is my belief that educational facilities should ensure that the needs of their students are a top priority. University of Houston—Clear Lake and University of Houston have shown that a cohesive approach to education may prove to be both efficient and successful. I hope this recognition will bring awareness to such a distinctive program and facilitate future relationships between universities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on July 31, 2007, I was unavoidably absent from the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 778, to sustain the ruling of the Chair of the Committee of the Whole in her ruling against Mr. SHADEGG of Arizona during debate on the McHenry Amendment to the Gingrey Amendment to H.R. 3161, the Agriculture Appropriations Bill. I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 779, the Motion by the Majority Leader for the Committee of the Whole House to Rise from its consideration of H.R. 3161, the Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

HONORING DR. NELSON ADAMS:
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to Dr. Nelson Adams. On August 7, 2007, Dr. Nelson Adams will be installed as the 108th president of the 112-year-old National Medical Association during their annual convention and scientific assembly in Honolulu, Hawaii. The National Medical Association (NMA) promotes the collective interests of physicians and patients of African descent by serving as the collective voice of physicians of African descent and as a leading force for parity in medicine, elimination of health disparities, and promotion of optimal health. Dr. Adams is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Honorary Doctor of Laws, but to me his most important accomplishment is that he was the doctor who delivered my son Kendrick Meek, Jr.

Dr. Adams, a native of Miami, Florida and a product of its public school system, is a medical leader passionately committed to eliminating racial and ethnic inequality in health. He is regarded as an exceptional achiever, earning high recognition both scholastically and among medical peers. An esteemed alumnus of Howard University, Dr. Adams has been recognized in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. He earned his medical degree at Meharry Medical College, where he was named Student of the Year in his freshman class and served as President of the Meharry Chapter of the Student NMA. Dr. Adams completed his four-year residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Emory University in 1982. Prior to returning home to Miami, Dr. Adams practiced in Mobile, Alabama for three years, where he was a founding member of the Bay Area Medical Association, an affiliate society of the NMA.

A board certified obstetrician-gynecologist, Dr. Adams has a vibrant and challenging practice in North Miami-Dade County. He was the first African-American Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the first African-American Chief of Staff of North

Shore Medical Center. In 1992, he founded the Maternal Child Health Initiative (MCHI), an award-winning model for providing care to at-risk, low-income, pregnant women.

Today, Dr. Adams is the Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Jackson North Medical Center and President of N.L. Adams, M.D. and Associates. He is also President and Chairman of Access Health Solutions (AHS), a managed care company providing services in 26 counties in Florida. Under Dr. Adams' leadership and through his keen focus on both access and quality, AHS has grown from humble beginnings to serving more than 94,000 beneficiaries with 525 healthcare providers.

Throughout his fruitful career, Dr. Adams' leadership and community service has reached across academic, religious, fraternal, and charity institutions. He is the past Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Greater Miami Region of the National Conference of Christian and Jews, a member of the prestigious Orange Bowl Committee, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Florida International University Foundation, Meharry Medical College, Barry University, The Children's Trust and until recently, the Miami Art Museum.

I am also proud to report that Dr. Adams and I are Members of the same fraternity, which we both consider the best fraternity in the country—Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Additionally, he is a beloved and active member of the historic St. John Baptist Church where he serves as a Deacon and Chairman of the Board of the church's Community Development Corporation. Dr. Adams has held many positions of leadership in organized medicine at the local, state and national levels. He is the past President of the local and state NMA societies in Florida and has served as Vice President, Secretary of the House of Delegates, and member of the Board of Trustees of the NMA.

Dr. Adams has served on the board of directors of the DCMA for nearly 10 years, and is the past Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President, and President-elect of this august body. In June 2007 he was installed as the 97th President of the Dade County Medical Association. Dr. Adams is the son of Naomi A. Adams and the late Nelson L. Adams, both of whom were educators in the Dade County School system. Dr. Adams is married to Effie Jones Adams and they are the proud parents of Victoria and Nelson. Sustained by family ties and guided by spiritual values, Dr. Adams abides by the motto: "To whom much is given, much is required."

NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, AND NCAA
OPPOSE SPORTS BETTING.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I would like to call attention to a letter that I and my colleagues received this week from the professional and collegiate sports associations. It alerts us to the fact that, at this time when the reputation and integrity of American athletics are keenly threatened by gambling-related scandals, proposals to legalize and sanction

sports gambling are being advanced here in the House of Representatives.

I have long been concerned about protecting American athletics from the taint of gambling. I cosponsored the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992, when arrested the growth of state-sponsored sports betting. As Congress said then, "Sports gambling threatens to change the nature of sporting events from wholesome entertainment for all ages to devices for gambling. It undermines public confidence in the character of professional and amateur sports."

Now H.R. 2046 threatens to let offshore online gambling operators do through the backdoor what PASPA shut off to states through the front door. And the proponents of sports gambling are making the same arguments that they did in the early 1990s: legal sportsbooks have the technology and incentive to identify suspicious activity and prevent actual corruption of the game; people are going to gamble on sports anyway, so the government might as well capture tax revenue on the activity.

Congress rejected those arguments then, and they should reject them now. The fundamental issue has never been whether the technology existed to prevent abusive sports gambling. The fundamental issue is this: regardless of what happens between friends or on the black market, Congress should not be in the business of encouraging people to gamble on sports. And sports gambling should be off limits from further exploitation as a "revenue enhancer."

This is an essential principle, that gambling and sports do not mix. Even though H.R. 2046 says sports leagues can "opt out" of allowing gambling on their sport, Congress would still be sending the wrong message about sports gambling. Moreover, the sports associations have very serious concerns that the "opt-outs" could be struck down by U.S. courts or international tribunals, leaving their sports completely unprotected.

As their letter says, "the harms caused by government endorsement of sports betting far exceed the alleged benefits." Therefore, I will not support any movement on H.R. 2046 so long as it poses any threat to the integrity of American athletics.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to place in the RECORD the letter signed by the General Counsels of the National Football League, Major League Baseball, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, and National Collegiate Athletic Association.

JULY 30, 2007.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: Sports betting is incompatible with preserving the integrity of American athletics. For many decades, we have actively enforced strong policies against sports betting. And the law on this point is consistent. Federal statutes bar sports betting, especially the 1961 Wire Act and the 1992 Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act. Enforcement of these laws against sports betting was also a significant motive for enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA).

Accordingly, we urge you to reject current proposals to legalize Internet gambling, such as H.R. 2046 sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank. This legislation reverses federal policy on sports betting and would for the first time give such gambling Congressional consent. The bill sends exactly the wrong message to the public about sports gambling and threatens to undermine the integrity of American sports.

On a related point, we believe the Congress should not consider any liberalization of Internet gambling until the U.S. Trade Representative successfully resolves our trade disputes in this area. A rush to judgment on this subject could result in irreversible damage to U.S. sovereignty in the area of gambling regulation, including the capacity to prohibit sports bets.

Though Internet gambling on sports has never been legal, easy access to offshore Internet gambling websites has created the opposite impression among the general public, particularly before Congress enacted UIGEA last fall. UIGEA emerged from more than a decade of Congressional consideration, in which stand-alone legislation aimed at restricting Internet gambling passed either the Senate or the House in each of five successive Congresses, each time by overwhelming bi-partisan votes. UIGEA also enjoyed a broad array of supporters, including 49 state Attorneys General and other law enforcement associations, several major financial institutions and technology companies, dozens of religious and family organizations, and of course our sports organizations.

Enactment of UIGEA was grounded on concerns about addictive, compulsive, and underage Internet gambling, unlawful sports betting, potential criminal activity, and the wholesale evasion of federal and state laws. When it passed the House a year ago, the vote was 317-93, including majorities of both caucuses and with the affirmative votes of both party leaders.

The final product was a law that did not change the legality of any gambling activity—it simply gave law enforcement new, effective tools for enforcing existing state and federal gambling laws. UIGEA and its predecessor bills could attract such consensus because they adhered to this principle: whether you think gambling liberalization is a bad idea or a good one, the policy judgments of State legislatures and Congress must be respected, not de facto repealed by deliberate evasion of the law by offshore entities via the Internet.

By contrast, H.R. 2046 would put the Treasury Department in charge of issuing licenses to Internet gambling operators, who would then be immunized from prosecution or liability under any Federal or State law that prohibits what the Frank bill permits. The bill would tear apart the fabric of American gambling regulation. By overriding in one stroke dozens of Federal and State gambling laws, this would amount to the greatest expansion of legalized gambling ever enacted.

This legislation contains an "opt-out" that appears to permit individual leagues to prohibit gambling on their sports. But regardless of the "opt-out," the bill breaks terrible new ground, because Congress would for the first time sanction sports betting. That is reason enough to oppose it. In addition, the bill's safeguard opt-out for sports leagues as well as the one for states may well prove illusory and ineffectual. They will be subject to legal challenge before U.S. courts and the World Trade Organization.

In addition, this legislation would dramatically complicate current trade negotiations concerning gambling. In 1994, the United States signed the General Agreement on Trade in Services, which included a commitment to free trade in "other recreational services." In subsequent WTO proceedings, the United States has claimed this commitment never included gambling services. The United States has noted that any such "commitment" would contradict a host of federal and state laws that regulate and restrict gambling. The WTO has not accepted this argument.

Accordingly, the U.S. Trade Representative has initiated negotiations to withdraw

gambling from U.S. GATS commitments. Before withdrawal can be finalized, agreement must be reached on trade concessions with interested trading partners. Few concessions should be required because there was never a legal market in Internet gambling in the U.S. If Congress creates a legal market before withdrawal is complete, the withdrawal will become much more complicated and costly. Therefore, we oppose any legislation that would imperil the withdrawal process.

Finally, we have heard the argument that Internet gambling can actually protect the integrity of sports because of the alleged capacity to monitor gambling patterns more closely in a legalized environment. This argument is generally asserted by those who would profit from legalized gambling and the same point was raised in 1992 when PASPA was enacted. Congress dismissed it then and should dismiss it now. The harms caused by government endorsement of sports betting far exceed the alleged benefits.

H.R. 2046 sets aside decades of federal precedent to legalize sports betting and exposes American gambling laws to continuing jeopardy in the WTO. We strongly urge that you oppose it. Thank you for considering our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

RICK BUCHANAN, Executive,
VP and General Counsel,
National Basketball Association.

ELSA KIRCHER COLE,
General Counsel,
National Collegiate
Athletic Association.

WILLIAM DALY,
Deputy Commissioner,
National Hockey
League.

TOM OSTERTAG,
Senior VP and General
Counsel, Major
League Baseball.

JEFFREY PASH,
Executive VP and
General Counsel,
National Football
League.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 781, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY BROADBAND ACT OF 2007

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Community Broadband Act of 2007 in which I am pleased to be joined by the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. UPTON. I appreciate his co-authorship of the measure and the steps we have taken together to construct the bill.

Our legislation will encourage the deployment of high speed networks by ensuring the ability of local governments to offer community broadband services.